

REMARKS

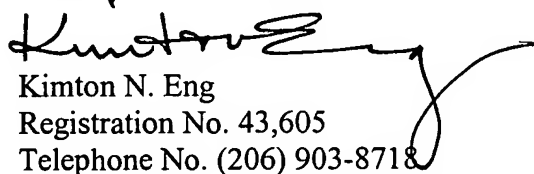
Claims 25-29 and 31-42 are pending in the present application. Claims 25-42 were presented for examination. Claim 30 has been cancelled by amendment.

In the office action mailed October 15, 2004 (the "Office Action"), claims 25-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,659,699 to Breternitz Jr. (the "Breternitz patent"). Claims 31-42 were allowable and claim 30 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 30. The amendment made to claim 25 has been made to expedite the allowance of allowable subject matter. The amendment, however, should not be interpreted as reflecting Applicants' belief that the subject matter of the unamended claims is unpatentable. Moreover, Applicants have not addressed the merits of the Examiner's rejection of the claims, or whether the Examiner's characterizations of the cited references are accurate. Therefore, the presumption that Applicants have tacitly acknowledged the merit of the rejections or that the references cited by the Examiner are relevant to the patentability of the present invention should not be made.

All of the claims pending in the present application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and a timely Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosures:

Postcard

Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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